



SUPPORTING PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

USAID promotes the equal rights of persons with disabilities to live independently in Armenia

Though some constitutional and legislative protections exist, there remain numerous barriers to equal rights and opportunities for persons with disabilities in Armenia. This includes lack of inclusive access to education, social services, and employment. To address this, USAID promotes the inclusion of persons with disabilities across its programming in Armenia, supporting activities to reduce discrimination and address the barriers that limit the participation of persons with disabilities in their families and communities.

LIVING INDEPENDENTLY

In Armenia, **USAID enhances** the social and economic inclusion of persons with disabilities by improving equal access to the education system, strengthening the social services available in their communities, and reducing barriers to entry in the labor market. USAID partners build the capacity of local disabled people's organizations (DPO's) and service providers to establish a range of services and improve their ability to promote disability issues.

ADVOCATING FOR CHANGE

USAID promotes the political enfranchisement of persons with disabilities by improving the accessibility of polling stations and encouraging the use of tactile ballots and election information in Braille during elections. USAID's work with DPO's and community organizations has also strengthened advocacy efforts for the rights and inclusion of persons with disabilities. In May 2021, Armenia adopted two legal acts protecting the rights of persons with disabilities including guaranteeing their right to live independently. This milestone was due to decades of persistent advocacy by Armenia's national disability rights organizations and activists, many of whom USAID has supported, and has the potential to change the lives of the roughly 200,000 people with disabilities in Armenia.

2021 Results

- 2,093 boys and girls received special education services at inclusive schools
- 192 service providers trained to serve vulnerable persons, including persons with disabilities
- 143 polling stations outfitted to serve voters with disabilities in the 2021 parliamentary elections
- 9 schools renovated to improve access to inclusive education
- 2 Independent Living Resource Centers in Shirak and Lori provinces established
- A national, disability-led coalition that advocates for policies and legislation to support sustainable access to resources across Armenia established

CURRENT ACTIVITIES

Leading for Independent Living promotes independent living and the inclusion of persons with disabilities by facilitating accessible and sustainable community-based support and services in Lori and Shirak marzes. Independent living centers are managed by persons with disabilities for persons with disabilities.

2019 - 2022 | Mobility International USA | \$1 million

Strengthening of the Inclusive Education System works directly with the Ministry to strengthen Armenia's education system in order to implement inclusive national child welfare reforms. Through small-scale adjustments in selected schools and pedagogical-psychological centers, the project ensures that learning environments are physically adapted to be inclusive of children with disabilities and/or those with special educational needs.

2016 - 2023 | Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport | \$0.82 million

Community Level Access to Social Services (CLASS) promotes the establishment of community-based social services in Armenia. The activity trains social workers to identify and respond to the most vulnerable children, including those with disabilities, and support child well-being with more accessible services.

2017 - 2024 | World Vision Inc | \$2.7 million

Strengthening Electoral Processes and Political Accountability in Armenia (SEPPA) builds government capacity to respond to strategic priorities, improves election administration and oversight, and strengthens institutions of political accountability for inclusive political competition including the National Assembly, political parties and the Central Election Commission. This includes efforts to improve the enabling environment for the enfranchisement of voters with disabilities.

2018 - 2025 | Consortium for Elections and Political Process Strengthening (IFES, IRI, and NDI) | \$21.6 million

Armenia Workforce Development supports youth empowerment, workforce readiness, and skills development for youth, women, and persons with disabilities. Assistance promotes a productive and self-reliant workforce, bridges the mismatch between labor market supply and demand, and addresses policy and regulatory constraints on the labor market.

2021 - 2026 | Enterprise Incubator Foundation | \$7.5 million